

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of transferring a substance into a cell comprising using resorbable silicon for conveying the substance into the cell.
2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the resorbable silicon comprises porous or polycrystalline silicon.
3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 comprising using a microneedle that comprises at least a region of porous or polycrystalline silicon.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 comprising having at least the tip of the needle provided with porous or polycrystalline silicon.
5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 which comprises using a microneedle (i) having a coating of porous or polycrystalline silicon or (ii) made substantially completely of porous or polycrystalline silicon; at least for a portion of the length of the microneedle.
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 comprising using an array of microneedles which comprise at least in part porous or polycrystalline silicon.
7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 which comprises using a microneedle or microneedle array, in which the microneedles are hollow and comprise porous or polycrystalline silicon, the substance being provided in the hollow or transferred through the hollow.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which a microneedle array is used, the array comprising a plurality of needles extending away from a support, the needles comprising substantially completely, or at least in part, porous or polycrystalline silicon, and each needle having fluid transfer means adapted to transport fluid from their bases to their tips, and fluid supply means communicating with the fluid transport means and supplying fluid to be injected to the base of the needles.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3 in which the needle has no central lumen and comprises a micropiercer, porous or polycrystalline silicon being provided on the needle, the porous silicon holding the substance to be conveyed.

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10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 comprising providing a needle or needles with a pore network extending from a reservoir or channel to a substance delivery region provided at the surface of the needle.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 which comprises using a porous or polycrystalline silicon biolistic bullet.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 which comprises using porous or polycrystalline silicon having the substance associated with it, and providing the porous or polycrystalline silicon in a form adapted to co-precipitate with another substance to form a co-precipitate which is taken into the cell.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 comprising using calcium phosphate as the co-precipitate.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 comprising using an electrically bioactive electrode that comprises at least in part porous or polycrystalline silicon, and using electroporation to convey the substance into the cells.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 in which the cells adhere to the electrode.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the substance comprises DNA or RNA, a fragment of DNA or RNA, or a construct of DNA or RNA.

17. (Previously Presented) A microneedle or micropiercer comprising resorbable silicon.

c 1 18. (Original) A microneedle according to claim 17 which has a duct.

19. (Original) A microneedle according to claim 18 in which the duct extends from the base region of the needle to the tip of the needle.

20. (Previously Presented) A microneedle according to claim 34 in which at least a portion of the needle is made substantially completely of porous or polycrystalline silicon.

21. (Previously Presented) A microneedle according to claim 34 in which at least a part of the needle comprises a surface layer of porous or polycrystalline silicon.

22. (Previously Presented) A microneedle according to claim 34 in which a porous or capillary network is provided.

23. (Previously Presented) A needle array having a microneedle or a micropiercer according to claim 34 which further comprises a substance adapted to be conveyed into a cell.

24. (Original) A needle according to claim 23 in which the substance is carried by, or held on the needle, by the porous or polycrystalline silicon.

25. (Previously Presented) A needle according to claim 34 which is resorbable or bioabsorbable, or at least part of which is resorbable or bioabsorbable.

26. (Previously Presented) An array of microneedles extending away from a support, in which the microneedles are in accordance with claim 34.

c 27. (Previously Presented) A cell-entering vehicle for transferring material into a cell, the vehicle comprising, at least in part, resorbable silicon, and material to be transferred into the cell.

28. Canceled.

29. (Previously Presented) A vehicle according to claim 27 which comprises a biolistic bullet comprising porous or polycrystalline silicon.

30. (Original) A vehicle according to claim 29 in which the biolistic bullet is made substantially completely of porous or polycrystalline silicon.

31. (Currently Amended) A vehicle according to claim 28 27 in which the vehicle comprises a substance which in use will co-precipitate with a co-precipitate substance that is taken into the cell.

32. (Currently Amended) A vehicle according to claim ~~28~~ 27 which comprises an electrically-conducting bioactive porous or polycrystalline silicon electrode.

33. Canceled.

34. (Previously Presented) A microneedle or micropiercer according to claim 17 wherein the resorbable silicon comprises porous or polycrystalline silicon.

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